WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of processing runtime functions, comprising:

    receiving a call to a runtime function;

    determining associated data from the call to the runtime function;

    determining a target from the associated data; and

    executing the target.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the associated data comprises accessing data in a data structure connected with the runtime function and calculating the associated data based on the accessed data.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    determining if at least a portion of the associated data is valid; and

    preventing execution of the target if the associated data is not valid.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising maintaining a list of valid targets, wherein the step of determining if the associated data is valid comprises comparing the target to the list of valid targets.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein maintaining the list comprises generating the list of valid targets at compiler and link time.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein maintaining the list comprises generating the list of valid targets at runtime.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining if the associated data is valid comprises retrieving a security cookie from the associated data and comparing the retrieved security cookie to a list of valid security cookies.

8. The method of claim 3, further comprising determining and storing a predetermined calculated value based on at least a portion of the associated data, prior to receiving the call to the runtime function.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein determining if the associated data is valid comprises comparing the predetermined calculated value to another calculated value based on the associated data.

10. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method of processing runtime functions, the method comprising:

      receiving a call to a runtime function;

      determining associated data from the call to the runtime function;

      determining a target from the associated data; and

      executing the target.

11. The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the step of determining the associated data comprises accessing data in a data structure connected with the runtime function and calculating the associated data based on the accessed data.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions for determining if at least a portion of the associated data is valid, and preventing execution of the target if the associated data is not valid.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, having further computer-executable instructions for maintaining a list of valid targets, wherein the step of determining if the associated data is valid comprises comparing the target to the list of valid targets.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein maintaining the list comprises generating the list of valid targets at compiler and link time.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein maintaining the list comprises generating the list of valid targets at runtime.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein determining if the associated data is valid comprises retrieving a security cookie from the associated data and comparing the retrieved security cookie to a list of valid security cookies.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, having further computer-executable instructions for determining and storing a predetermined calculated value based on at least a portion of the associated data, prior to receiving the call to the runtime function.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein determining if the associated data is valid comprises comparing the predetermined calculated value to another calculated value based on the associated data.

19. A system for processing runtime functions, comprising:

   a processor that receives a call to a runtime function; and

   a dispatcher system that determines associated data from the call to the runtime function, determines a target from the associated data, and executes the target.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the dispatcher system comprises a module to access data in a data structure connected with the runtime function and calculate the associated data based on the accessed data.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein the dispatcher system comprises modules to determine if at least a portion of the associated data is valid and prevent execution of the target if the associated data is not valid.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising a storage device that stores a list of valid targets, wherein the dispatcher system determines if the associated data is valid by comparing the target to the list of valid targets.

23. The system of claim 22, further comprising a compiler that generates the list of valid targets.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the dispatcher system determines if the associated data is valid by retrieving a security cookie from the associated data and comparing the retrieved security cookie to a list of valid security cookies.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the processor determines and stores a predetermined calculated value based on at least a portion of the associated data, prior to receiving the call to the runtime function.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the dispatcher system determines if the associated data is valid by comparing the predetermined calculated value to another calculated value based on the associated data.

27. The system of claim 19, further comprising a compiler and a linker that compiles code to produce an executable that is marked with an identifier indicating that the executable supports runtime protection.